

(b) whether Government have fixed any time-frame to dispose of such pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY):** (a) to (c) At present, 93 retail outlet dealerships, 193 LPG distributorships and 13 SKO-LDO dealerships are pending in the State of Tamil Nadu for selection through interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards.

Four new DSBs have been set up for Tamil Nadu for early selection of dealers/distributors. Selection is made in a phased manner, and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact time frame for completion of selection for the pending locations.

**Agreement with Russia and other countries in the field of petroleum**

**3012. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of agreements entered into with Russia and other countries in the field of petroleum alongwith the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY):** The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Acute Problem of LPG Being Faced by Residents of Suraigwail, Ranikhet**

**3013. MISS FRIDA TOPNO:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that residents of Suraigwail in Ranikhet Tehsil, Bikayasin Block, Distt. Almora, Uttar Pradesh have been facing acute problem in getting LPG gas cylinders delivered by Indane Gas Agency, Ranikhet, Almora, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that delivery van of LPG gas cylinder goes only from Ranikhet to Jalali and leaves Suraigwail, Daula and Pali villages;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) by when the problem of the above villages regarding supply of LPG gas cylinder will be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Suraigwail is an extension point of M/s Ranikhet Gas Service, a distributor of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and the supply of LPG to the registered customers at this point is made twice a month on regular basis. IOC have not received any report of shortage of LPG at Suraigwail at present and the supplies are being made as per demand.

#### Average cost of feed Stock for Urea using Naphtha and Natural Gas

3014. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the average cost of feed stock per million BTU for urea manufactured using naphtha and natural gas in the country by public and private sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in the context of private/public sector, unit-wise;
- (c) the amount incurred on using of natural gas and naphtha every year; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATUAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Average cost of feedstock per million BTU for urea manufacture using naphtha and natural gas as feedstock by public/private sector in the country based on the prices being considered in the fixation of retention price of urea during the quarter October-December 1999 is given in statement (*see below*).

The actual amount incurred on the use of natural gas and naphtha by the fertilizer unit is not maintained in the office of Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee, which administers the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS). Under RPS the normative quantity and actual allowable purchase cost of the respective feedstock is recognized. The approximate value/amount recognized on the basis of weighted average rate of gas and naphtha in the RPS for natural gas including alternate fuel if any, and naphtha for the year 1998-99 and